GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2883
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004
INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES IN SCHOOLS
Panda Shri Prabodh;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Supreme Court issued directions to various State Governments, All India Council for Technical Education and National Council for Teacher Education asking them to include environment as a subject in the syllabi of the institutions under their control;

(b) If so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto ;

(c) Whether all the State Governments and UTs have since introduced the environmental studies as a compulsory subject in all schools, colleges and universities; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefore along with the name of the defaulting States and UTs which do not introduce such subject till date ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. The Supreme Court vide their order dated 18th December, 2003 had directed the NCERT to formulate syllabus including the one-`Environmental Studies` from Class I to XII. It also directed all States and other authorities to see that all educationalinstitutions under their control implement respective steps taken by them, as reflected in their affidavits, fully starting from the next academic year viz. 2004-2005. On 22.04.2004, the

court accepted the syllabus filed by NCERT and directed all the States to respond to the reports submitted by the NCERT within 8 weeks. On 13.07.2004, the Supreme Court accepted the syllabus submitted by NCERT and directed that the syllabus prepared by NCERT for Class I to XII shall be adopted by every State in their respective schools. Further, the court appointed NCERT as a nodal agency to monitor the implementation of the court`s order.

All the States/UTs and other organizations viz. NCTE/AICTE are bound to implement the order of the Supreme Court. Syllabus of Environmental Education prepared by NCERT has already been circulated to all States/UTs and they are making preparations for its implementation from the next academic session viz. 2005-2006. Most of the States have included the Environment Education in their school syllabus. However, they will now strictly follow the curriculum of environment prepared by NCERT, as per directives of the Supreme Court. The UGC has circulated a `Syllabus for Environmental Studies` to all the Universities/ Colleges for its compulsory implementation from the academic year 2003-2004.AICTE has already prepared a syllabus, which includes Environmental Education, which is being updated. In the hearing held on 07.08.2004 AICTE submitted that the said syllabus will be introduced from the next academic year. NCTE also submitted that the preparatory papers in regard to preparing a syllabus including the environment education are being processed/updated.